

REMEDIATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR

March 24, 2005

BROWNFIELDS STUDY GROUP MEETS MARCH 30

The Brownfields Study Group (BFSG) will meet on **March 30** from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public and will be held at the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St., Madison. Our agenda will include the state budget, DNR's Green Tier Program (Mark McDermid), Chapter 30 permits (Mary Ellen Vollbrecht), waterfront issues, the Aviall Supreme Court decision and other updates. For more information about the BFSG, please see <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/rbrownfields/bsg/index.htm>.

WISCONSIN WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION CONFERENCE AGENDA

The preliminary agenda for the **April 13** Wisconsin Waterfront Revitalization Conference is now available. Registration is at capacity, but you may ask to be on the waiting list and you may still register as an exhibitor - <http://www.glc.org/wiconference>. This conference will focus on local success stories in redeveloping waterfront brownfields and will be at the Blue Harbor Resorts in Sheboygan, a former brownfield. Speakers will include John Antaramian, Mayor of Kenosha; Marc Marotta, Secretary of the WI Department of Administration; and representatives from Sheboygan, Ashland, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Aswaubenon, Sauk County, the River Revitalization Foundation, Gathering Waters Conservancy, EPA and DNR. Their topics will include redevelopment methods; obtaining access to property; property acquisition; project funding; community relations; private, local, and state government perspectives and case studies.

PLEASE NOTIFY US ABOUT UNSPENT SAG AWARDS

In any grant program there are circumstances when grant recipients are unable to fully use their grant award. If you are the recipient of a Round 5 SAG award (SAG #160 to SAG #262), and will not be able to spend some or all of your SAG funds, please notify us as soon as possible. We have until May 13, 2005 to award the grant to another applicant in Round 5 or Round 6 – this is the last day in the 2003-2005 state biennium that we can encumber funds. We prefer to get all available funds to local governments that need them, rather than letting them go unused. Please notify Dan Kolberg at Dan.Kolberg@dnr.state.wi.us or 608-267-7500, or notify Michael.Prager@dnr.state.wi.us or at 608-261-4927. Thank you.

REVISED WEB PAGE ON STATE BUDGET

We've updated our web page highlighting RR program-related items in the 2005-2007 State Biennial Budget. At this time it includes Governor Doyle's budget recommendations for the RR Program, links to other state budget information, and information about previous state budget impacts on the RR Program. As the Legislature acts on the state budget, we'll continue to provide updates. The new page is at http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/financial/rr_state_budget.html.

EXAMPLES OF CASE CLOSURE REQUEST PROBLEMS

The last five closure requests received by a single RR Program hydrogeologist illustrate some all-too-common problems that seem to intensify when a consulting firm starts work at a contaminated site previously handled by another firm. Problems usually originate with the site investigation and include:

- Confusing and illegible maps – There should be at least one site map with all boring and well locations, the contaminant source and excavations shown. We also need a map that clearly shows property boundaries and water supply well locations. Maps are not useful if the reviewer can't read them due to tiny or fuzzy text.
- Old data tables - Closure requests sometimes include the original consultant's data tables, which is fine when they are legible and accurate. Problems arise from incomplete tables

and poor copies. Bewildering data tables and figures reduce the efficiency of our hydrogeologists, our closure review committees, and our GIS Registry specialists.

- Multiple formats in data tables - Some closure requests include both new data tables from the current consultant as well as older data tables, with information spread throughout the report in tables with different formats. It can be difficult to determine which are saturated soil samples, which contaminated soils have been removed through excavation, and whether groundwater samples pre-date or post-date active remediation. Groundwater summary tables should include consecutive sampling results at each well.
- Duplicate titles - If the initial consultant labeled tables (e.g. Table 1 and Table 2), and the second consultant added new data tables also labeled as Table 1 and Table 2, the review is delayed while the hydrogeologist sorts out the tables. Sometimes different figures also have identical labels.
- Little stuff adds up - inaccurate deeds, missing signatures, missing figures and tables, text that conflicts with data tables, etc., all contribute to more review time.

For efficient review, maps need to be legible, and soil and groundwater data tables need to be comprehensive, consistently formatted and accurate. *Contents of Site Investigation Reports for Petroleum Contaminated Sites* provides a standard format for data tables and maps and can be adapted for use at non-petroleum sites. It's on the web at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR628.pdf>. While including old tables without clarification may seem to save time and money, it is a major source of delay and additional cost in obtaining case closure approval. When in doubt regarding the additional time and expense it may take to consolidate data, especially when working within an approved bid, please contact the contact the DNR project manager to discuss the format of your data.

REVISIONS TO GUIDANCE FOR ELECTRONIC SUBMITTALS

We have updated publication RR-690, *Guidance for Electronic Submittals for the GIS Registry of Closed Remediation Sites*. The new version is on the web at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR690.pdf>. We have changed only the language regarding security options as a result of availability of Adobe Acrobat 6.0. DNR can use electronic submittals with greatest efficiency if no security options are included with the portable document format (pdf) file that we receive, so we have deleted wording regarding security options that was previously included in the section titled "File Format, Disks and Signature Page". If you have questions about electronic submittals, please contact Gary Edelstein at Gary.Edelstein@dnr.state.wi.us or at 608-267-7563.

SMART GROWTH AWARDS

EPA is accepting nominations for the fourth annual National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. This competition is open to local or state governments and other public sector entities that have successfully applied the principles of smart growth to their economy, their community, and their environment. Applications will be accepted in five categories - Built Projects, Policies and Regulations, Small Communities, Military Base Redevelopment and Overall Excellence in Smart Growth. Applications are due on **May 18**, 2005. Up to five winners will be recognized at a ceremony in November. For more information and an application, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm>.